



Robins celebrates
Dr. King's life

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Vol. 50 No. 3

Friday, January 21, 2005

Robins Air Force Base, Ga.



ROBINS RevUp

News you can use

Walk into Wellness campaign starts Monday

The Walk into Wellness campaign, sponsored by the Health and Wellness Center and the Fitness Center, will officially kick off at Robins Monday.

The campaign – a first in a series of events to be offered in support of the base's civilian physical fitness program – is open to all civil service employees and military members, but excludes contract employees.

For more information, contact the HAWC at 327-8480 or the Fitness Center at 926-2128.

– From staff reports

Military Personnel Flight open Saturday, Jan. 29

The Military Personnel Flight customer service will be open Saturday, Jan. 29 from 9 a.m. to noon.

– From staff reports

Single parent support group meets Feb. 1

Three base organizations are partnering to offer single parents a convenient time and place to meet and share common experiences, lessons learned, resources they find valuable and perhaps even the finer points of parenting that come with experience.

The support group will begin meeting Feb. 1 from noon to 1 p.m. at the Smith Community Center and will continue to meet the first Tuesday of each month.

The 78th Medical Group's Family Advocacy Outreach Program – through its outreach manager, Veronica Griffin – launched the Lunchtime Single Parent Group program and enlisted the support of the base Chapel, Services Division and the Smith Community Center.

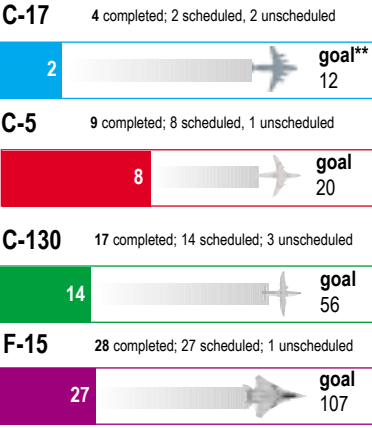
The chapel will provide lunch and serve in other key areas of the program, such as providing resources, counseling and enrichment activities.

Ms. Griffin said the program is designed for adults and is open to all who have access to Robins. Those planning to attend should contact Ms. Griffin at 327-8427 by Jan. 31.

– Chrissy Zdrakas

Aircraft Maintenance Output

The information below reflects Robins' progress toward maintenance goals for fiscal 2005 as of Jan. 19.



**Goal is for scheduled maintenance on-time delivery only; unscheduled aircraft don't count toward fiscal year goals.

Source: Doug Clark Jr., depot maintenance workload analyst, WR-ALC/MAWVB

U.S. Air Force graphic by Angela Trunzo

Robins
3-day
forecast

Courtesy of 78th
OSS/OSW

Today
Partly cloudy



63/40

Saturday
Cloudy with
chance of rain



65/42

Sunday
Cloudy with
chance of rain



48/40

What's
inside

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ALS flight chief explains importance of military salute 8B

Smoother traffic flow ahead as base's intersections 'go digital'

By Chrissy Zdrakas
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Those who have never given two seconds thought to how a traffic light works will be surprised to know there's a whole science governing those colorful containers of red, yellow and green that hang heavy over intersections.

Because of science, traffic lights at Robins' intersections are about to get more efficient.

A video detection system is being installed that will track and regulate traffic so it flows more smoothly. The system has two parts – a controller located on an intersection corner and video cameras on each side of the intersection. The video cameras let the controller-in-a-box know when a car is awaiting a green light.

Out of the loop

The cameras replace a loop system that consisted of sensor wires about the size of a computer mouse cable buried in the asphalt beneath the street surface. The system created a magnetic field that would alert the traffic signal when a car was present.

The cameras have programmed detection zones. When a vehicle enters a detection zone, it sends a message to the controller that a vehicle is present and needs to pass. When the system is completed, the 78th Civil Engineer Squadron will be able to monitor intersections by live video in a central location. They already can "see" traffic flow on a computer screen, but the cars are represented by the colors of the traffic light they are approaching.

The man behind the new system is Steven Hall, industrial electronic controls technician and self-confessed

Please see **TRAFFIC, 2A**



U.S. Air Force photos by Sue Sapp

Top, a camera at the intersection of Robins and Ninth street records activity. Above, Steve Hall and Senior Airman Willie Demery program a digital speed limit sign on Warner Robins Street.

Recognizing Robins

116th Air Control Wing gets Outstanding Unit Award

By Senior Airman
Tim Beckham
116th Air Control Wing
Public Affairs

The 116th Air Control Wing was announced as the winner of the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award Jan. 3 – its first since the wing blended Air National Guard and active duty members in 2002. The award was for the time period between

Please see **WING, 2A**

What it means

The Air Force Outstanding Unit Award is presented for exceptionally outstanding achievement that sets units above and apart from similar units. The 116th Air Control Wing will be presented the award in the near future. Every member in the wing will then be able to officially wear the ribbon.

Command nominates 23 from Robins for CINC-level awards

By Chrissy Zdrakas
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If the Commander-in-Chief's Installation Excellence Special Recognition Award nominations were an Air Force Materiel Command-sponsored sports event, the score would be Robins Air Force Base 23; Hill Air Force Base, 13.

But when it comes to the CINC awards, sports are not a factor. What really

counts is what people, teams and organizations have done to innovate and improve.

All 36 of AFMC's nominations will go up against those of other major commands before an Air Force judging panel. The Air Force panel will choose up to 100 winners for CINC special recognition. The awards, usually announced in the spring, are certificates

Please see **AWARDS, 2A**

HOT STUFF | Robins cracks down on shoplifting, makes offenders pay

By Holly L. Birchfield
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Editor's Note: Army Air Force Exchange Service Headquarters' Public Affairs contributed to this article.

While shoplifters may not pay at the checkout counter – they pay heavily in court.

According to Army Air

Force Exchange Service headquarters reports, Robins' Base Exchange has detained about 78 shoplifters, resulting in the collection of more than \$11,000 in charges through the Civil Recovery program.

The program went into effect in 2002 to allow AAFES to collect the minimum administrative cost of \$250, in addition to the

value of shoplifted items, from those caught in their stores.

If shop lifted merchandise isn't returned to the store – or is but can't be sold – AAFES will demand the full retail value of the items. If the stolen merchandise is damaged and can be sold, AAFES will demand the difference

Please see **PAY, 2A**



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

Samel Brown, a 78th Security Forces investigator, processes some shoplifted items to be held as evidence.

Jumper applauds AFMC's successes in 2004

Air Force Materiel Command
news service

WRIGHT-PATTERSON Air Force Base, Ohio – The Chief of Staff of the Air Force praised Air Force Materiel Command Jan. 11 for its improvements and successes in providing war-winning capabilities on time and on cost during fiscal year 2004.

In a reply to an informal report from Gen. Gregory S. Martin on his command's 2004 accomplishments, Gen. John Jumper referred to the logistics and sustainment mission, calling it "a success story all around."

Asked about the Chief's remarks, General Martin gave the credit to the men and women of AFMC. He said that he is looking ahead to an even better year with AFMC in 2005.

General Jumper responded to many significant accomplishments; among them:

■ Highest ever aircraft due-date performance – 92 percent on-time

■ Beat scheduled aircraft production – 644 required, 653 delivered

■ Met engine production goal – 406 required, 406 delivered

■ More "iron" on the ramp – 144 fewer aircraft in depot maintenance

■ MICAP (aircraft not-available due to critical parts) hours at all time low – 19 percent reduction

■ Customer Wait Time decreasing – 10 percent better than fiscal 2003

■ Total Non-Mission Capable due to Supply rate – below 10 percent

■ Depot Maintenance Activity Group – achieved best Net Operating Result in 10 years.

"I know if we keep working the Lean projects and keep the emphasis on process improvements, accounting and accountability we can get to all the goals we've set," General Jumper wrote. Lean describes an organizational culture focused on reducing costs by eliminating waste and improving processes.

General Jumper concluded, "I am very proud of AFMC."

TRAFFIC

Continued from 1A

lover of traffic lights. He is part of a team headed by William Fowler, 78th CES chief of infrastructure.

Traffic lights ‘often misunderstood’

“I really do love traffic lights,” he said. “Most people don’t understand them. For example, flashing your head lights will not make a light change. Neither will crossing the stop bar painted in the pavement.”

Mr. Hall, who researched the new system and brought the idea to his boss, has been around traffic lights for a long time. He began working on

light systems in Georgia after four years at Robins as an active-duty member of what was then the 2853rd Civil Engineer Squadron. He returned to Robins in 2000 to join CE’s alarm shop. As the new system’s funding began to take shape, he frequently monitored intersections so the lights could be set to optimize traffic flow.

He found an accepting ear in Mr. Fowler, who knew of Mr. Hall’s expertise in the traffic field. Mr. Fowler has been in the electrical business for 40 years, 29 of them at Robins. A lineman for a Mississippi-based construction company, he was working in Ohio before coming to Georgia to build a 500,000-volt line.

Both Mr. Hall and Mr. Fowler recognized the Robins’ loop system

needed replacement. Maintenance was becoming a problem, and breakdowns were getting more frequent. Most of the newly equipped intersections have a back up power supply that will run up to one hour on battery.

Installation of the new system is complete at five intersections; four more should be done in about three months. The last will be part of the new main gate project that is under way. The completed intersections already have radio connectivity, and because they are able to “talk” to each other, can move traffic more efficiently.

What’s in it for drivers?

For base drivers, traffic lights still look like traffic lights. On an inter-

section corner, they may notice metal containers about the size of a clothes washing machine. They house the controllers. Overhead, most drivers probably already have seen the cameras. Drivers also should find they are waiting less at traffic lights, and when they are part of a large traffic flow, moving with fewer interruptions.

Mr. Fowler said that the overall plan is to partner with the 78th Communications Squadron to centralize the system’s live video at the alarm shop. The 78th Security Forces Squadron has requested connectivity, too, to better track vehicles as part of its anti-terrorist program. Among the many future benefits, Mr. Fowler said, will be faster response times for police and other first responders to accidents

and other emergencies.

Digital speed limit signs

In another development drivers probably have noticed, the base has four new digital speed limit signs near buildings 300 and 301 and at Robins Elementary School. They are programmed to change the speed of traffic based on pedestrian flow and time of day.

Because they are red and because they move, they “jump out at you,” Fowler said, making them much more noticeable. In the pedestrian-heavy area of buildings 300 and 301, the signs announce speed limits of either 20 or 30 mph, depending on the time of day. They school sign says “slow down and flashes 10 mph.

WING

Continued from 1A

Oct. 1, 2002, and Aug. 1, 2004.

Prior to the current win, the wing, formerly known as the 116th Bomb Wing, boasted 11 previous wins.

“This recognition is not only for the outstanding performance of the wing in contingency operations - but also for successfully implementing the transformational Total Force concept in an operational wing,” said Brig. Gen. Tom Lynn, 116th ACW commander.

Maj. Gen. David Poyth-

ress, Georgia Air National Guard adjutant general, spoke highly of the unit and its leadership.

“The performance of the men and women of the 116th ACW, under the stellar leadership of General Lynn, (is truly deserving of) this distinguished and coveted recognition,” he said.

Not only did the 116th ACW blend two years ahead of schedule, but it took on multiple deployments in support of four different operations, including the largest in Air Control Wing history, flying in seven different orbits.

“The men and women of the 116th have excelled at

‘thinking outside the box’ to make this transitional concept a reality and a template for future wings,” said General Poythress. “And, to top off their blending challenge with an absolutely outstanding performance during Operations Noble Eagle, Southern Watch, Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, is the ultimate proof of what the 116th ACW is made of.”

General Lynn agreed.

“This AFOUA is a direct reflection on the hard work and dedication of the men and women of the 116th. It is their award, and I am extremely proud of them.”

Communications Squadron Tech Control, Wireless Local Area Network Team and Master Sgt. Danny Colbert, 78th Communications Squadron; 78th Services Division; 78th Mission Support Squadron; 78th Security Forces Squadron; and the 78th Medical Group.

Nominees in Warner Robins ALC organizations include:

■ **Jane W. Stoner**, Financial Management; **Airlift Defense System Tiger Team and ALE-47 Uncommanded Dispense IPT**, Combat Electronic Systems Directorate; **Installation/ Acquisiton or ROVER – Remote Operations Video Enhanced Receiver**, Special Operations Forces/Combat Search and Rescue System Program Office; **F-15 Radar Software Team and Training Management Team**, Directorate of Maintenance; **Paul E. Hibbitts**, Museum of Aviation; the **Team Robins Cultural Diversity Facilitators Team**; and the **653rd Combat Logistics Support Squadron.**

Other Robins nominees:

■ **5th Combat Communications Group, 19th Air Refueling Group, and the Band of the U.S. Air Force Reserve.**

AWARDS

Continued from 1A

signed by the Secretary of Defense.

Installation Excellence is actually two awards programs in one. Installations as a whole compete to become the best base in the Air Force. People, teams and organizations compete Air Force-wide for the special recognition.

Robins was not the AFMC nominee for best base this year. Florida’s Eglin Air Force Base was. The three installations Air Force selected as finalists from among its major command base nominees were McConnell Air Force Base, Kan.; Misawa Air Base, Japan; and Royal Air Force Lakenheath, United Kingdom. An Installation Excellence Selection Board will visit the three finalist bases between Jan. 31 and Feb. 13 to determine the winner.

Eleven of the Robins nominees for special recognition are from the 78th Air Base Wing. They are:

■ **Geoff Janes**, 78th Air Base Wing Public Affairs; **Ulysses A. Bernard, Master Sgt. Christopher C. Crafton, Senior Airman Pang Chang**, 78th Civil Engineer Group; the **78th**

PAY

Continued from 1A

between the full retail value and the reduced sale value.

Mark Henderson, chief of the Security Force Investigations section of the 78th Security Forces Squadron, said whether it’s the latest DVD movie or large ticket items such as computers, shoplifters rob Base Exchange stores and their customers of millions of dollars in merchandise each year.

“Typically, people (who shoplift) do it for their own personal use,” he said. “They want that \$39 to \$59 game that has just come out – and customers end up paying for it in the long run.”

Shoplifting affects everyone. According to Mr. Henderson, retailers have to raise their prices to cover their losses - and as a result, customers pay the price of shoplifting every day.

Some shoplifters aren’t alone in their punishment. Mr. Henderson, who has worked in security forces for more than 20 years, said.

“You have an individual liability when you (shoplift), but you’re also affecting the sponsor who allows you to utilize these Air Force services,” he said.

In addition to recovery costs, the military sponsor’s check cashing and Military Star card privileges are suspended until the debt is either paid or waived.

According to AAFES reports, parents of minors



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

From left, 78th Security Forces Investigators Tech. Sgt. Cynthia Christian, Corey Crow, Samel Brown and Daniel Colabine sort through items recovered from one their largest shoplifting cases, which totaled about \$20,000.

charged with shoplifting are equally responsible for paying the cost of their actions under the Civil Recovery Act and answering to their leadership about the offense.

Mr. Henderson, whose office charges shoplifters and seizes and stores stolen items used as evidence, said while minors are released into their sponsor’s custody until their court appearance, their punishment is far from over.

Juveniles, 16 and younger, who are caught shoplifting, may perform community service on the base unless they are repeat offenders or the retail value of the item stolen is \$100 or more. In such cases, their records are forwarded to the Houston County Juvenile authorities.

“There’s a misnomer about what we do in these cases,” Mr. Henderson said. “People

assume that when we don’t take them to the county jail, that means nothing is really going to happen – and that couldn’t be further from the truth.”

According to Dee Dial, special assistant U.S. attorney with the 78th Air Base Wing Judge Advocate’s Office – shoplifters on a federal military installation may face up to one year imprisonment or a fine of up to \$100,000.

All shoplifters age 17 and above are prosecuted in Federal District Court for the Middle District of Georgia and receive a permanent criminal record when convicted. There is no pre-trial diversion for individuals age 17 and above, who shoplift on Robins Air Force Base; however the majority receives at least a short period of incarceration, according to Ms. Dial.

78th CEG takes care of troops at home, abroad

By Lanorris Askew
lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil

Tech. Sgt. Darren Gause knows how special it is for a parent to hold his or her child for the very first time; he experienced it two and a half years ago with his daughter Charlotte. But, things were a little different the second time around.

When his son Jace was born Sept. 17, Sergeant Gause was thousands of miles away aiding in the fight for freedom, a fight he hopes will keep both his children safe and secure.

The four-month wait to meet his infant son face-to-face ended Jan. 4, when the sergeant along with 21 other members of the 78th Civil Engineer Group returned home from a deployment to Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan.

“I held off on all of the emotions until I saw the family,” he said. “I tried not to think about it too much. When I finally saw them and was able to hug and kiss my wife and my little girl and to hold my little boy, it was just a really nice warm feeling.”

According to Sergeant Gause, a firefighter with the 778th CES, his unit had returned from another deployment only nine months prior to the latest one, and he had mixed feelings about leaving again.

“I’m supporting my country whether I’m deployed or here,” he said. “But duty calls, and you have to go do the job. I was disappointed that I had to go again so soon, but it’s what I signed on for.”

Capt. Charles Fletcher, 78th CES customer service flight commander, had just the opposite reaction.

Although he said it feels great to be home, he has

mixed feelings because some of the things he wanted to get accomplished were only nearing completion at the end of the deployment.

Several projects held special meaning for the squadron, and he said he would have liked to see them through. Some of those projects included the repair of the airfield parking ramp, construction of the dormitories and additional force protection measures such as installation of the drop arm barriers.

“It was a great deployment,” he said. “It felt good to be directly supporting the mission. It was an awesome feeling, and I’m happy I had the opportunity to go.”

CE’s role there was base sustainment which means maintaining the assets and temporary facilities such as Harvest Falcon Kits.

In simple terms they made sure everyone had quality shelter and amenities and provided heating, air conditioning, power and hot water to hundreds.

“By far, we definitely left Manas a much better place than we found it,” said the captain.

While there, Captain Fletcher oversaw a \$39 million construction program that totally restructured Manas, moving personnel from tents into semi-permanent facilities.

“CE shops provided exceptional support to all of



Capt. Charles Fletcher, 78th CES customer service flight commander, returned home Jan. 4.

“CE shops provided exceptional support to all of the contracted projects, while at the same time maintaining the infrastructure of the base; basically the same job they do here but under contingency conditions....”

CAPT. CHARLES FLETCHER
78th CES customer service flight commander

the contracted projects, while at the same time maintaining the infrastructure of the base.

“Basically it was the same job they do here but under contingency conditions, to include nuclear, biological, chemical defense, fire protection and explosive ordnance disposal,” he said.

His third deployment in four years, Captain Fletcher said this was his busiest.

“It was briefed to us when we got there that one day there equaled a week at home, and I found that to be very true,” he said. “It was very fast paced, but we had top-notch people who are professionals at what they do.”

Those top-notch people made the days a little more bearable.

“I missed my family, but being under those circumstances I felt like I was with my extended family, and I think we did a good job taking care of the troops,” he said.

For Sergeant Gause the mission was a little different. His normal day included training different people from different bases on the equipment they were unfamiliar with. That equipment included the F-16, C-130 and KC-135 aircraft.

“Most of the troops going into Afghanistan fly in through Manas so we served as a sort of stepping stone for getting them down to the forward operating bases where

they needed to go,” he said. “We were even forward deployed to Afghanistan for a few weeks.

“It was really interesting to see how the Army operates,” he added. “Our main job there was to support the C-130s flying in on the dirt runway, but we also protected the Marine cobras, the UH-60s, the MediVacs and Apache helicopters.”

They also supported the base with any fire protection they needed.

“It was really interesting to finally get to do our job for a real emergency,” said Sergeant Gause. “Most of the time you are just training for it.”

Captain Fletcher agreed. He said he was glad that he had the opportunity to serve his country in such a capacity.

He added that the distance from his blood relatives was made easier by his extended family within the squadron.

“It’s a great feeling to have them back,” said Capt. Steve Harrington, 78th CES acting commander. “Being deployed and coming back, I know that they are definitely relieved.

“We’re proud of what they have accomplished and that they’re safe and able to come back to their normal workplace.”

He said he expects the remainder of their deployed troops to be coming in by the end of the month.

First Command fined, customers may be eligible for restitution

**By Michael R. Shutter
chief, general law**
78th Air Base Wing
Judge Advocate Office

Former First Command customers may be eligible to receive restitution of a portion of sales loads they paid in the purchase of systematic investment plans in conjunction with the National Association of Securities Dealers’ enforcement action. NASD recently fined First

Command \$12 million for “making misleading statements and omitting important information when selling mutual fund investments,” to military personnel. The fine will be used to pay restitution to thousands of customers who purchased a Systematic Investment Plan between Jan. 1, 1999, and Dec. 15, 2004, and then terminated the plan and paid an effective sales charge greater than 5 percent. All money remaining will be

payable to the NASD Investor Education Foundation and be used for the investor education needs of members of the military and their families. NASD found that First Command primarily sold the plans to commissioned and non-commissioned officers. The firm’s customer base includes more than 297,000 current and former military families. First Command’s sales force consists primarily of former military personnel.

The State of Georgia through action by its Insurance Commissioner has suspended the insurance license of First Command Financial Services Inc. for 90 days. If you believe that you are eligible for restitution, you should contact Wayne Secore at Secore & Waller, L.L.P., Three Forest Plaza, 12221 Merit Drive, Suite 1100, Dallas, Texas 75251, or visit www.secorewaller.com to learn more. Restitution will be made promptly and is expected to be completed

on or near March 15. First Command customers who are not eligible for restitution and those who believe they have been the subject of unfair or improper business conduct that falls outside the current NASD settlement may file an online complaint through the NASD online complaint center, at www.nasd.com, or they may download complete the complaint form and mail it to NASD Investor Complaint Center, 1735 K Street, NW, Washington DC, 20006.

Firing range reminder

The 78th Security Forces Squadron conducts live fire training at the base firing range, located on the northeast side of the base, adjacent to the horse stables. The firing ranges are off-limits to all persons, unless scheduled for training or official business. Nearby housing residents should warn children of the hazards of playing near the area. The ranges are clearly marked with signs and red flags during weapons firing. Also, night firing is conducted throughout the year. If you have any questions or concerns, call the 78th SFS Combat Arms section at 926-5031.

— *From staff reports*

**NOTICE TO AFGE UNIT EMPLOYEES
CONCERNING
UNION DUES**

Employees desiring to initiate an authorization for dues withholding may obtain an SF 1187 from any AFGE steward or official. The effective date will be the first full pay period after receipt of the SF 1187 by the Civilian Pay Section.

Employees wishing to discontinue their dues withholding may obtain SF 1188s from the Civilian Pay Section or the Labor Relations Office. Discontinuance of dues withholding will be effective as follows:

(1) For an employee who began dues withholding allotments before 11 January 1979: Beginning the first full pay period following 1 September provided the SF 1188 is received by the Civilian Pay Section prior to 1 September.

(2) For an employee who started dues withholding on or after 11 January 1979: Beginning the first full pay period following the particular anniversary date (the anniversary date is the starting date of the first pay period for which dues were deducted from the employee's pay).

According to the Labor Relations Office, the Civilian Pay Section referenced above is now the Civilian Payroll Liaison Office (WR-ALC/FMFS). Standard Forms 1188 may be obtained from the Labor Relations Office, (78 SPTG/DPCEL), or WR-ALC/FMFS. The Labor Relations Office is located in Building 255, 1st Floor. The Civilian Payroll Liaison Office is located in Building 301, East Wing, Bay F. A Standard Form 1188 may be requested either in person or by telephone by calling extension 67781 (DPCEL) or 66229 (FMFS).

REPRESENTATION RIGHTS

Section 7114, Civil Service Reform Act of 1978, provides certain rights to bargaining unit employees being questioned by management during an investigation. These rights are also spelled out in Article 5, Section 5.03 of the Master Labor Agreement between AFMC and AFGE, Article 16, Section c, of the Nonappropriated Funds Labor Agreement, and Article 7, Section 4, of the Command Labor Agreement between AFMC and IAFF (firefighters).

If a supervisor is questioning an employee and the employee believes discipline may result from the interview, the employee is entitled to be represented by the union if specifically requested by the employee. The following three ingredients must all be present for this right to be exercised:

- a. The supervisor or management official must be asking questions,
- b. The employee must have a reasonable basis to believe discipline could result,
- c. And, the employee must request union representation.

This does not entitle employees to representation when normal day-to-day matters are being discussed or questions are not asked. A counseling session to be entered on the AF Form 971, Supervisor's Employee Brief, and the delivery of a proposed disciplinary action would be two examples of instances when the right does not arise.

If you have a question concerning representation rights under the investigatory interview circumstances, please call your servicing Employee Relations Specialist or the Labor Relations Office. Employee Relations can be reached at 63423 or 60677. Labor Relations can be reached at 67781.

Chaplain recalls honoring fallen in Baghdad

By Chaplain (Maj.) Shane Gaster
509th Bomb Wing

WHITEMAN AIR FORCE BASE, Mo. – The telephone in the chapel tent at Camp Sather, the Air Force contingent at Baghdad International Airport, rang a little after 9 p.m. It was someone from the U.S. Army mortuary affairs team. When mortuary affairs called, it was generally to cover a fallen U.S. Soldier, Airman, Marine, Sailor, defense contractor or other member of the coalition force.

I had been in the country less than a month and had already done 40 of these, but the event that night warranted deeper reflection. I wrote it in my journal because I was talking to myself about it, and sometimes I needed to talk to myself. We all do.

At BIAP, aircraft taxi, land, and take off without lights; the airfield is deliberately kept dark. I responded that night, along with my chaplain assistant, Airman 1st Class Marco Avecilla, to the C-130 Hercules that had just taxied in. As it approached, we could see a dim light emanating from the cargo hold; it was just enough illumination to allow the loadmaster and crew to see their way around inside.

Air Force honor guard members were assembling; they were Airmen assigned to Camp Sather, who generally worked 10-12 hours a day, six to seven days a week, but volunteered to do additional duty as members of the honor guard. They wore the desert cammies for these formations. Underneath the body armor, we were all suffocating from the heat.

The air expeditionary group deputy commander was out at the

aircraft along with the command chief master sergeant. They had already made the walk out from the Glass House, one of only two hardened buildings on Camp Sather. The Glass House once served as a building where Saddam Hussein’s distinguished visitors were greeted, but was now home to the command section. Also at the aircraft were the troops from the ramp section.

Airman Avecilla and I, along with the others, gathered at the back of the aircraft to wait. The rear door was raised, and the ramps down and in place; we whispered quietly to each other, until, off in the distance, we could see the silhouette of mortuary affairs’ five-ton truck approaching.

The MA team clearly has one of the most stressful, but most sacred duties there as they receive the casualties and prepare them for the first leg of their journey home. The casualties’ families and our nation have every reason to be grateful and proud of the sacred work the MA team does in caring for our fallen comrades.

Parked just off the nose of the C-130 was a blue Air Force bus. The ramp supervisor said there were about 30 Marines sitting on it, waiting to head out. They waited on the bus until all the cargo was loaded onto the aircraft, including the transfer case, the military term for a coffin. It was the standard operating procedure.

The supervisor then went to the Marines to explain what was happening and that as soon as the transfer case was loaded, they would be allowed to board the aircraft. The Marines wanted to join the honor guard formation for the ceremony. The supervisor came over and shared their desires. We looked at one another and without

“Whether our uniforms say Air Force, Navy, Army or Marines, they all say ‘U.S.’ – and at the heart of what that means is ‘us.’”

hesitation nodded in unison. In less than a minute, they assembled with us, helmets, armor and weapons included.

As the five-ton truck with the case approached the rear of the C-130, we stood at parade rest, forming two lines straight off the ramp directly under the rear of the aircraft. The air crew, as always, stood in formation with us. We were called to attention.

The truck’s tailgate was lowered, then with care the MA team pulled the flag-laden transfer case from the back of the vehicle. At the command “present arms,” the formation rendered a slow ceremonial salute.

My chaplain assistant and I led the pall bearers up onto the ramps and into the cargo hold of the Hercules. The only other sound piercing the darkness was the auxiliary power unit under the port wing running the C-130’s systems while it was parked. The detail broke ranks, assembled up the ramps and huddled around the transfer case.

There we were, under the dim lights with the APU humming, looking at the flag, and thinking about the young Soldier beneath it, lying in rest at our feet. It was crowded, and I invited the troops to gather and close in.

I gave some preliminary comments as to how this Soldier gave his life earlier that day. I suspected

he had slept in a tent last night with his friends and comrades, ate breakfast with them that morning, and didn’t plan to end his day like this, but he was prepared to, as we all were. For some, the risk was far greater.

I said, “Hear the word of the Lord,” and Airman Avecilla read the 23rd Psalm. I then called for a moment of silence, as I always did, and offered a prayer for his family, the people of his hometown and for our nation.

I prayed for the men and women of his unit who would notice in a striking fashion when his name is no longer called at the next muster. I prayed for the aircrew who would fly this American home. I closed by praying for those U.S. Army MA team members who did what few would want to do and even fewer would talk about, and they did it in a sterling manner. I asked God to bless them.

After the prayer, and a final salute, the detail was dismissed. The entire ceremony lasted five minutes. It is some of the most honorable five minutes I can think of.

I thanked the Marines for participating and they were all thankful for the honor, as all of us always were. We went to the air crew and wished them a safe journey out of the desert to their next stop, and they were uniquely aware of the most precious cargo

they were responsible for. We had the honor of taking a fallen servicemember and sending him home to family, friends, loved ones and neighbors. In my prayer, I asked God that when this troop finally arrived home to family and was laid to rest that his hometown and his country wouldn’t soon forget the price paid in the flow and making of history.

The troop’s only memorial may become a framed picture carefully set on a piano, coffee table or some other shelf, and maybe 20, 30 or 40 years from now, children, grandchildren and other relatives might see an old photograph in a frame of someone in uniform, and ask who it was. Someone will then say, “Let me tell you about your uncle, your father or your grandfather,” or whoever it may have been. There will always be those who remember. Always.

It struck me later that night of the uniqueness of that particular occasion. I reflected on it at length. That night we had assembled Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, National Guard and reserve members. It was the total package. We were all proud to have been a part of the moment. Whether our uniforms say Air Force, Navy, Army or Marines, they all say “U.S.” – and at the heart of what that means is “us.” One team, one fight.

Editor’s note: Chaplain (Maj.) Shane Gaster was deployed to Baghdad International Airport, Iraq, from late May to early September 2004. During the rotation, the chaplain staff – two chaplains and two chaplain assistants – conducted memorial services for 106 casualties in 111 days. Chaplain Gaster is the senior Protestant chaplain for the 509th Bomb Wing here.

Commander's Action Line

Col. Greg Patterson
Commander,
78th Air Base Wing



Action Line is an open door program for Robins Air Force Base personnel to ask questions, make suggestions or give kudos to make Robins a better place to work and live.

Please remember that the most efficient and effective way to resolve a problem or complaint is to directly contact the organization responsible. This gives the organization a chance to help you, as well as a chance to improve their processes.

To contact the Action Line, call 926-2886 day or night, or for quickest response e-mail to one of the following addresses: If sending from a military e-

mail system select, Robins Commanders Action Line from the Global Address List. If sending from a commercial e-mail account (AOL, AT+T, CompuServe, Earthlink, etc.), use action.line@robins.af.mil.

Readers can also access Action Line by visiting the Robins AFB homepage at <https://www.mil.robins.af.mil/actionline.htm>. Please include your name and a way of reaching you so we can provide a direct response.

Action Line items of general interest to the Robins community will be printed in the Rev-Up. Anonymous Action Lines will not be processed.

Security Forces.....	327-3445
Services Division.....	926-5491
EEO Office.....	926-2131
MEO.....	926-6608
Employee Relations.....	926-5802
Military Pay.....	926-3777
IDEA.....	926-2536
Base hospital.....	327-7850
Civil engineering.....	926-5657
Public Affairs.....	926-2137
Safety Office.....	926-6271
Fraud, Waste and Abuse hotline.....	926-2393
Housing Office.....	926-3776

E-mail spam

I have been receiving e-mails that are not addressed to me and seem to be some type of spam. Is there anybody that could address this problem?

Commander’s reply: You are right, spam, slang for unsolicited commercial junk and bulk e-mail, is a nuisance to network users and is becoming a greater concern to us all as the number of instances increase.

The 78th Communications Squadron Network Control Center has an effective program in place to aggressively combat spam. The list of known and newly-identified spammers is updated daily. However, mass marketers are sly and persistent; they often spoof or frequently change their e-mail address and some amount of spam will always get through. We use commercial spam-blocking filters that block more than 3,000 junk mail messages each day. The communicators continue to assess advanced applications to improve the overall spam-blocking capability.

The good news is you can help. You can adjust your Outlook

client software junk mail settings very easily. Under “Actions” on the Outlook menu bar, you may use the junk mail blocker to select a number of options for your special junk mail folder. If you have questions contact your assigned workgroup manager or call the help desk for assistance at 6-HELP. The delete key is still our best friend in the fight against spam. Remember never to reply to any unsolicited message requesting personal information. Registering your e-mail address on commercial Web sites is almost a guarantee you’ll be added to some marketing lists – only share your e-mail address for official business.

Remember to slow down

There have been

6

speeding tickets issued calendar year to date.

How the points add up

Accumulating 12 traffic violation points within a year may cause drivers to lose base driving privileges for up to 6 months. Speeding violation points are based on the number of miles over the posted speed limit.

10 miles = 3 points
11 - 15 miles = 4 points
16 - 20 miles = 5 points
21+ miles = 6 points

Source: AFI 31-204



Airmen Against Drunk Drivers is a 24-hour-service that provides rides to those who have consumed alcohol and need transportation home. The program is run by volunteers from across base, and those who use the service aren’t subject to adverse action. To request a ride, call: 335-5218, 335-5238 and 335-5236.

Robins DUI tracker

Robins has adopted a zero tolerance policy for drinking and driving. In addition to an incentive for no DUIs and putting up signs to keep the message in drivers’ minds as they leave the base, the Rev-Up will run weekly numbers of DUIs.

Fiscal 2003:	55	Fiscal 2004:	79	Fiscal 2005 to date:	17
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Best metro format newspaper in the Air Force 2003 and Best metro format newspaper in Air Force Materiel Command 2002, 2003



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78th Air Base Wing
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Martin Luther King Jr. Jan. 15, 1929 – April 4, 1968

remember celebrate ACT



U.S. Air Force photos by Sue Sapp

Top, a slide show presents photos and information about Dr. King's life during the Robins annual commemorative service at the Base Theater Sunday. Above, attendees sing songs of praise. Below top left, from left, Stephanie Porter and Candice McLellan, of the Robins Air Force Base Inspirational dancers, perform a praise dance.

Community honors the life of Martin Luther King Jr. during service Sunday



By Lanorris Askew
lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil

A rainbow of humanity gathered at the Base Theater to pay tribute to the life and works of Martin Luther King Jr. during Robins' annual commemorative service Sunday.

Celebrating what would have been the slain civil rights leader's 76th birthday, members of Team Robins joined in worship as well as remembrance. Praise dancers, musical selections, prayer and the reading of a portion of the "I Have a Dream" speech laid the way for a message of inspiration and hope from Chaplain (Maj.) Bill Burrell, guest speaker and senior Protestant chaplain here.

Laying the foundation for his sermon, he urged the audience to see the Dr. King holiday as a day on, not a day off, and as a time to remember, celebrate and realize that we must take action.

"I've learned in life that if you don't want things to change — just do nothing," he said. "I've also learned that if you want things to repeat themselves — still do nothing."

Remember

Chaplain Burrell said while

many people urge us to forgive and forget, remembering the past can enable us to not repeat mistakes.

"We need to understand that the past influences the present," he said. "We are what we eat, and like it or not, the past has fed us, and we must do the proper exercise to remove what should not be there."

Charlene Mickens, a member of the Robins Gospel Experience, said she remembers sitting in her fifth grade classroom when the announcement came that Dr. King had been assassinated. She remembers many tears that day.

"I'm just so blessed to have lived during the time that his legacy was being built and to be able to share it with my kids," she said.

Col. Greg Patterson, 78th Air Base Wing commander, also remembers the past.

In his closing remarks he

recounted his first civil rights lesson which occurred while in the front seat of his mother's Ford Mustang.

He said when a sign which read "no coloreds" was posted on the front window of the local laundromat his mother showed him that we can all make a difference. A few phone calls and a few weeks later the sign was gone.

"All of us can make a difference," he said. "Dr. King made a huge difference, but we can all make a difference; it's what we were put on this earth to do. We have got to grab that child at an early age and educate them on what is right."

Celebrate

The second part of Chaplain Burrell's message was to celebrate progress.

"We haven't been doing a good job of celebrating the victories of the past," he said. "Many times we talk about the struggles, but we never pause to celebrate from where we have come as a nation and as a people."

He said he has learned that when you celebrate, it ignites something in those that are there to want to do what caused the celebration again. It makes them

think it was worth it.

"As a country we have come a mighty long way," he said. "Not saying that we have arrived, but I encourage you to not wait until the third weekend in January to celebrate the peace that we have."

Take action

The final portion of the speech was to be people of action.

"I don't care how much you know to do; until you do it, it's not done," he said.

"Action takes real faith, and faith without work is dead."

He added that we should dare to put our faith into action.

"We must also pass the torch to the next generation," he said. "We can no longer afford to do what is right for a season and then go back to business as usual."

"Through all of his struggles, Dr. King never strayed from what was right," he said.

He also thanked base leadership in attendance.

"You must lead in your leading — you can only teach what you know, and you can only lead where you go," he said. "Your struggle and my struggle isn't about us — it's about generations to come."



Chaplain (Maj.) Bill Burrell is the senior Protestant chaplain at Robins.

2005 FEDERAL HOLIDAYS

Federal law (5 U.S.C. 6103) establishes the following public holidays for federal employees. Please note that most federal employees work on a Monday through Friday schedule. For these employees, when a holiday falls on a nonworkday – Saturday or Sunday – the holiday usually is observed on Monday (if the holiday falls on Sunday) or Friday (if the holiday falls on Saturday).

FEB	MAY	JULY	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	{MARCH, APRIL, JUNE, AUGUST}
Monday, Feb. 21: George Washington's Birthday	Monday, May 30: Memorial Day	Monday, July 4: Independence Day	Monday, Sept. 5: Labor Day	Monday, Oct. 10: Columbus Day	Friday, Nov. 11: Veterans Day Thursday, Nov. 24: Thanksgiving Day	Monday, Dec. 26: Christmas Day	no federal holiday

BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENTS



The Black Heritage Observance Committee announces the following events for celebration of Black History Month:

Saturday - Old school dance at the Enlisted Club starts at 8 p.m.

Jan. 28 - Golf tournament at the Pine Oaks Golf Course tee time 12:30 p.m.

Feb. 6 - Gospel concert at the Base Chapel from 4-6 p.m.

Feb. 17 - Luncheon at the Enlisted Club starts at 11:30 a.m.

Feb. 11 - Health fun run/walk starts at 10 a.m. with a 9:30 registration at the HAWC

Feb. 19 - Museum of Aviation 10 a.m.- 3 p.m.

Feb. 25 - Grand finale, with Five Men on a Stool – a contemporary Jazz and R&B ensemble accompanied by a touch

of spoken word at the Enlisted Club from 7-10 p.m.

The theme for this year is “The Niagara Movement” celebrating 100 years. T-shirts are \$12 and sweatshirts are \$20. Shirts can be purchased by contacting your organization representative or attending any BHOC fundraiser or event.

For more information, visit www.robins.af.mil/blackhistory/index.htm.

SERVICES BRIEFS

Child Development Centers East & West

Give Parents a Break and Hourly Care is available Feb. 4 from 6:30 - 10 p.m. at the Child Development Center East and School Age Program (unless otherwise posted). An advance \$6 nonrefundable deposit is required by the prior Monday for hourly care. Cost is \$3 per child per hour for children six weeks to 12 years old. New enrollees must have up-to-date shot records for their children and complete required forms prior to making reservations. For more information, call 926-5805.

Enlisted Club

A Texas Hold ‘Em tournament will be held Saturday with a practice and warm-up session from 11 - 11:45 a.m. and sign-ups starting at noon. The tournament will be limited to the first 64 players. Games will start at 12:30 p.m. Cost is \$5 for members and \$10 for nonmembers. Grand prize is a 27 inch television with prizes to be given to the winners of the first round tables. For more information, call 926-4515.

The club will sponsor a trip to Atlanta for the Hawks ver-

sus Miami Heat basketball game Jan. 28. Cost is \$50 and includes ticket, transportation, complimentary beverages and food. For more information, call 926-4515.

World Wrestling Entertainment Royal Rumble Pay-per-view will be aired at the club Jan. 30 at 8 p.m. Cost is free to members and \$5 for guests.

Super Bowl XXXIX comes to the club Feb. 6. Enjoy a dinner buffet, door prizes and many more surprises. Cost is \$5 for members, \$10 for guests and nonmembers.

Family Child Care

Individuals living in base housing who provide care for children other than their own for more than 10 hours a week on a regular basis must be licensed. To become licensed, contact Vera Keasley, FCC coordinator, at 926-6741 to start the process. Individuals who fail to do so may place their housing privilege in jeopardy.

The GO Program

The GO program offers a variety of events, activities

and discounts designed specifically for Robins’ junior enlisted force. All E -1 through E -4’s and their immediate family members may take advantage of these programs. Make sure you carry your card. The GO patrol will be doing random spot checks and awarding prizes.. Airmen who show their GO card can take advantage of the following in January:

- Get a free fountain drink, with a meal purchase of \$4 or more, at the Pine Oaks Golf Course, Fairways Restaurant, Robins Enlisted Club and Robins Lanes Bowling Center On Spot Café.
- Get hot wings for 25 cents during M.U.G. night every Wednesday at the enlisted club.
- Show your card at the AAFES movie theater and pay half price.
- Free shoe rental every day at the bowling center.
- Every Saturday, pay 75 cents for non-alcoholic strawberry daiquiris and pina coladas from 7 - 9 p.m. at the Enlisted Club.
- Save 10 percent on golf lessons at the golf course with John Anderson
- Save 10 percent on all rental items, car sales lot fee

and skeet at the skeet range with Outdoor Recreation.

■ Receive one hour of free stall rental per visit at the Auto Skills Center; one hour free shop fee per visit at the wood shop; one hour free shop time per visit at the frame shop and free acrylic painting classes with supplies included at the Skills Development Center.

Information, Tickets and Travel

Wild Adventure Theme Park, in Valdosta, Ga., season tickets are available for \$60 or single day pass for \$33. These tickets are good for ages 3 and older. Season parking passes will be available for \$22 per car. For more information, call 926-2945.

ITT has tickets to Little Shop of Horrors playing Feb. 5 and 6 at 2 p.m. for \$53 until Monday. Tickets are also available for Hairspray Feb. 19 and 26 at 2 p.m. for \$61 until Feb. 4. Both events will be held at the Fox Theatre in Atlanta.

Tickets are available until Feb. 4 for the Hershey Take 5 300 and the Daytona 500, Feb. 19 and 20. Cost is \$145

per person and includes both races, a free T-shirt and the fan walk.

Officers’ Club

Dinner with executive chef Calvin Clark is Jan. 28. This five-course dinner includes wine and dinner music for \$60 per guest. Cocktails will be served at 6:30 p.m. with dinner at 7. Make your reservation by Tuesday as the club will be limited to 48 guests. For more information, call 926-2670.

Riding Stables

The riding stables, near Luna Lake, offer a lighted riding ring, hot and cold wash racks, a horse trail, stalls and a horse pasture. Costs include monthly \$15 family membership fee plus monthly stable fee of \$67. All base ID cardholders are eligible to use the stables.

Smith Community Center

The 3-C Challenge unit representative meeting will be held Wednesday from 3 - 4 p.m. at the Smith Community Center. Anyone wanting to learn how 3-C works is welcome to attend. For more information, call Lynne Brackett at 926-2105.

CHAPEL SERVICES

Catholic Masses are celebrated at the chapel each Saturday at 5:30 p.m., Sunday at 9:30 a.m., on Holy Days of Obligation at noon and at a 5 p.m. vigil the day before, and Monday through Friday at noon. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is on Saturday from 4:30-5:15 p.m.

Protestant General Services take place every Sunday at 11 a.m. This service includes some traditional and contemporary worship styles in music and in format. **Protestant Inspirational Services** take place every Sunday at 8 a.m. **Protestant Contemporary Services** take place 11 a.m. each Sunday at the Base Theater. This service is very informal, with a praise team assisting in singing and includes both traditional and contemporary styles of music and worship.

Jewish service time is each Friday at 6:15 p.m. at the Macon synagogue.

Islamic Friday Prayer (Jumuah) is Fridays at 2 p.m. in the chapel annex Rooms 1 and 2.

The chapel helps with spiritual needs that arise. For further information, call the chapel at 926-2821.

FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER

Family Support Center sponsored classes, workshops, and seminars are open to all Team Robins personnel. For more information or to make a reservation, call 926-1256.

Transition assistance

The Transition Assistance Program ensures active duty personnel are prepared to separate from the military. Classes are offered throughout the year.

Relocation assistance

The FSC has videos on many Air Force installations around the world available for checkout. The relocation assistance program also has a Standard Installation Topic Exchange Service that has information on all military installations worldwide at www.

ROBINS CLUBS

Aerospace Toastmasters Club 3368 meets the second and fourth Wednesday of every month from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the PK conference room, Building 300. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Robert E. Hall at 497-2946 or Brenda Smith at 222-1710.

Dixie Crow Chapter of the Association of Old Crows, a professional Electronic Combat organization, meets the fourth Thursday of the month at 11:45 a.m. in the atrium of the Officers’ Club. For more information, contact Julie Vick at 926-2264 or Wes Heidenreich at 929-4441.

The Air Force Cadet Officer Mentor Action Program (AFCOMAP) Middle Georgia Chapter, a professional organization dedicated to the mentoring and professional development of all Air Force officers and officer candidates, meets

airforcesourceone.com (user ID: airforce; password: ready). For more information, call 926-3453.

Pre-deployment briefings

Pre-deployment briefings are offered by the FSC readiness team at 8:30 a.m. Mondays and Fridays in Building 945, FSC annex. For more information, call 926-3453.

Career focus

Career Focus provides ways for military spouses and family members, and displaced DoD civilian personnel to identify skills and interest, plan careers, improve job search skills, and increase opportunities for employment or a career change. For more information, call 926-1256.

on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 11:30 a.m. in the Dandelion Room of the Officers’ Club. More information can be found on Robins homepage under Special Functions.

Officers’ Christian Fellowship meets Tuesdays at 7:15 p.m. at a member’s home. OCF serves all active duty officers, enlisted personnel, guard and reserve members, ROTC cadets/midshipmen, international military personnel and civilian employees of military retirees. For more information, contact Capt. Melissa Cunningham at melissa.cunningham@robins.af.mil or 1st Lt. Ann Walsh at ann.walsh@robins.af.mil

Procurement Toastmasters Club, open to all of Team Robins, meets the first and third Thursday of each month at noon in the Contracting Directorate’s conference room, north end of Building 300. For information, call

Airman’s attic

The Airmen’s Attic program supports junior enlisted members that are establishing a household. E-4s and below are encouraged to visit the attic to find items to help defray the cost of setting up an apartment or home. Items usually available include kitchenware, small appliances and decorative items. The attic also provides children’s clothing, toys and military uniforms. Large items such as chairs, couches, washers, dryers, entertainment centers, desks and tables are donated to the Airman’s Attic. These larger items are passed on to junior enlisted members by way of a “Wish List.” Airmen are encouraged to visit the Attic and list their needs on the wish list.

Lily Fickler at 222-1673.

Ravens Toastmasters Club meets the first and third Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m. in the Special Operations Forces Management Directorate’s conference room No. 1, Building 300, East Wing, door E-4. For information, call Eddie Sanford at 222-3052.

Robins Top 3 Association meets the third Thursday of each month at 3 p.m. at the Enlisted Club. For information, call Master Sgt. John Maldonado at 926-7686 or Senior Master Sgt. Cynthia Cummings at 327-7639.

Editor’s Note: Information is provided by club members. To have your club or group’s information included or updated, submit it to Angela Trunzo in Building 215, Room 106, by e-mail at angela.trunzo@robins.af.mil or by fax at 926-9597.

MOVIE SCHEDULE

Adult tickets are \$3.50; children (11 years old and younger) tickets are \$2. For more information, call the Base Theater at 926-2919.



Today 7:30 p.m. – Closer – Julia Roberts and Jude Law

An uncompromisingly honest look at modern relationships, Closer is the story of four strangers and their chance meetings, instant attractions, and brutal betrayals. Based on a play by Patrick Marber, the couples find out that love can disappear when one of them experiences an affair. One man falls in love with his sweetheart at first sight, but, the characters later ponder, if there is such a thing as instant passion.

Rated R (graphic sexual dialogue, nudity/sexuality and language) 104 minutes



Saturday 7:30 p.m. – Flight of the Phoenix – Dennis Quaid and Tyrese Gibson

The action-adventure revolves around the plight of Captain Frank Towns, a pilot whose C-119 cargo plane full of oil workers could not withstand the violent winds of a desert sandstorm. Stranded in the harsh terrain of Mongolia’s Gobi desert, Frank and his navigator face an equal challenge in maintaining order among the survivors. The group of survivors had planned on an uneventful trip to shut off a group of rigs failing their productivity expectations - not fending for their very lives. Facing a brutal environment, dwindling resources, an attack by desert smugglers, they realize their only hope is to do the “impossible”: build a new plane from the wreckage.

Rated PG-13 (language, action and violence) 113 minutes

COMING SOON:

Jan. 28 - Lemony Snickets - Jim Carrey and Timothy Spall

Voilet, Klaus and Sunny Baudelaire are three intelligent young children who receive terrible news that their parents have died in a fire and have left them an enormous fortune not to be used until the eldest child is of age.

Rated PG (scary situations and brief language) 108 minutes

Jan. 29 - Spanglish - Adam Sandler and Tea Leoni

When the beautiful native Mexican woman Flor, the mother of a 12-year-old girl, becomes the housekeeper for an affluent Los Angeles family, cultures collide.

Rated PG-13 (some sexual content and brief language) 131 minutes

Professional Development Center becomes reality, opens Thursday

By Chrissy Zdrakas
chris.zdrakas@robins.af.mil

To a casual passerby, it was a parking lot. But the flight chief of the Airmen’s Leadership School next to it saw something else.

Looking from a window of the ALS to the adjoining lot, Senior Master Sgt. Ray Bocook envisioned a new Professional Development Center housing extra ALS classrooms and a permanent home for the First-Term Airmen’s Center.

It would be FTAC’s first home in an academic environment consistent with its programs and mission.

“I knew it could be done, and I knew it would take faith and a great deal of work,” Sergeant Bocook said. He and his wife, Tammie, 2003 Air Force Joan Orr Spouse of the Year, no strangers to either faith or hard work, teamed up on the project and discovered an ever broadening circle of people who shared their vision.

From idea to architect

Sergeant Bocook’s dream of an educational complex took shape about two years ago, and Mrs. Bocook began investigating how to get the idea off the ground. Lt. Col. Karon Uzzell-Baggett, former commander of the 78th Mission Support Squadron, had a related idea. She saw the need for a new home for FTAC, then housed in an upstairs classroom and two offices on the second floor of the Smith Community Center. They combined ideas and proposed collocating ALS and FTAC.

Their circle widened. The proposal came to the attention of the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, Chief Gerald Murray. Then Sergeant Bocook learned that the Command Chief at Air Force Materiel Command had proposed a

facility model to include not only ALS and FTAC, but also the office of career advisor.

“That’s when things really began happening,” Sergeant Bocook said. He contacted Bill Buecker, an architect with the 78th Civil Engineer Group, who designed the 6,344-square-foot building that would eventually be funded at a cost of \$742,000.

“I never doubted this building would be built,” Mr. Buecker said. “It had become a high priority project from Air Force Materiel Command. We had just six months to complete the design plans.”

Cramped for space

Staff Sgt. Dorian Chapman, who is assigned to ALS and has been working as flight chief for FTAC since October, said the former FTAC was functional, but cramped for space in the community center.

“We made a lot of sacrifices because of space,” he said. FTAC moved into the new building Dec. 13, and began conducting classes there Jan. 3.

“The new building is exceptional,” he said, “and gave us the ability to move just in time so that we could accommodate a large influx of students. The current class of 51 is double the size of the class before it.”

FTAC, as its name implies, serves first term airmen with a sort of “head start” program of familiarization and orientation. ALS serves senior airmen aspiring to be NCOs. Sergeant Chapman said putting the two groups together under one roof should prove beneficial to both. The togetherness will expand beyond collocating to possible joint activities such as retreats.

Among the features of the new building is a much larger auditorium than ALS formerly had. Both FTAC and ALS will use the auditorium, which has



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

A ribbon cutting ceremony formally opening the facility will be held Thursday at 1 p.m. with tours of the new building and a reception following.

terraced seating and raised stage.

Second leap of faith

Sergeant Bocook said even with the new building a reality, the classrooms were not furnished adequately. Getting that done, he said, took “a second leap of faith,” this leap involving Col. Greg Patterson, commander of the 78th Air Base Wing.

Sergeant Bocook brought the classroom situation to Colonel Patterson’s attention. The wing commander pledged the 78th Air Base Wing’s backing to furnish the FTAC rooms, and then called the 116th Air Control Wing, 5th Combat Communications Group and 19th Air Refueling Group, which took on the task of furnishing the other rooms. Colonel Patterson also paved the way to equip the facility with computers.

Mrs. Bocook, meantime, had been working in the background, first promoting the idea and then helping with the decorating, carpet and wall color choices. The Bocooks want to make everything in the common areas of the building a visual educational experience, using both photos and text and especially highlighting history.

A ribbon cutting ceremony formally opening the facility

will be held Thursday at 1 p.m. with tours of the new building and a reception following.

From dorm to professional center

The ALS has traveled a long road to its present identity. Its history is well known by retired Air Force Tech. Sgt. Mike Engel, former school commandant.

The first ALS, he said, was housed in a day room on the second floor of the NCO Academy dormitory. ALS was assigned to the 78th Air Base Wing’s predecessor organization, an Air Base Group. In early 1994, it moved into a mezzanine area of Building 376.

In the reorganization that created the 78th Air Base Wing, ALS was placed under the 78th Mission Support Squadron. Its then-commander, Col. Ken Spires, made Building 944, ALS’ present home, available by moving an orderly room to another building. ALS moved to the current location Dec. 20, 1995, and three years later, renovated the building and built an expansion. The expansion is a separate building connected to the older ALS by an enclosed hallway.

ROBINS BULLETIN BOARD

To have an item listed, send it to Angela Trunzo at angela.trunzo@robins.af.mil by 4 p.m. Monday prior to the Friday of intended publication.

ASMC luncheon

The ASMC luncheon will be at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday at the Officers’ Club ballroom. The guest speaker will be Heidi Honecker Grant, and the program will feature an overview of CENTCOM AOR. The cost is \$10 for members and \$11 for non-members. You must R.S.V.P. with a ticket representative by today. Tickets may be purchased from Kathy Piper at 327-1410, Amy Galeazzo at 222-0381 or Cynthia Drosos at 926-2475.

Tax center

The tax center will open Monday. Service will be provided on a walk-in basis Monday through Thursday. Sign up begins at 11:30 a.m. The tax center is located in Building 905 on the second floor of the library. Items needed for tax preparation are W-2s for jobs and DITY moves if any, 1099s, 1098s, SSNs, bank routing and account numbers for direct deposit (preferably a voided check), power of attorney if applicable, childcare provider’s name, SSN or tax ID number, address, child care cost, and any other necessary documentation. For further information, call 926-2391/2635.

Tuskegee Airmen Inc. chapter scholarships

The Maj. Gen. Joseph A. McNeil Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen Inc. at Robins is accepting applications for the Pratt & Whitney Golden Eagle Award scholarship. Financially disadvantaged, deserving young men and women who demonstrate a sincere pursuit of education leading to aviation, aerospace, engineering or technology careers will receive a \$20,000 scholarship. Forty-one Tuskegee Airmen scholarships of \$1,500 will also be awarded. Applicants must be students of accredited high schools who have graduated or will graduate in 2005. Application forms and instruc-

tions may be obtained from high school guidance counselors, www.tuskegeearmen.org or from the Robins chapter. Application deadline is Feb. 12.

AF Reserve Palace Chase Palace Front Briefing

The Palace Chase / Palace Front Briefing is held the third Wednesday of every month at 10 a.m. in Building 905 (MPF Building) in room 240. The Palace Chase program is an early release program which allows active duty Air Force officers and enlisted to request to transfer from active military service to an Air Reserve Component. The program allows you to transfer to the Air Force Reserve the day after separating from the active duty Air Force. Stop by and see if this is a viable option for you. There are many opportunities in the AF Reserve for you to continue your education, cross train and serve near your home. For more information, call Master Sgt. Danny Varga at 327-7367.

Zero Overpricing Program

The purpose of the Zero Overpricing Program is to reduce overpricing in Air Force acquisitions. It serves as the vehicle for all Air Force material users to participate in the efficient use of funds. If you know the current catalog price for an item is incorrect and may reflect an overprice to the government, submit an AF Form 1046 to WR-ALC/PKPB, Attn: ZOP Monitor - Cassandra Tharpe, 235 Byron St., Robins AFB, GA 31098.

Company Grade Officers Association

The Company Grade Officers Association helps young officers to broaden or establish a network, develop career opportunities, make new friends, form a social network and get involved in the community. For more information, visit <https://www.mil.robins.af.mil/cgoa> or call 1st Lt. Allison Guillaume at 327-2659 or 2nd Lt. Niklaus Pleisch at 222-2320.

Robins Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop is taking

donations on consignment. The shop is located on Page Road, Building 288, just inside Gate 5. Store hours are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Also, volunteers are needed to fill various positions. If you have any questions, call 923-1686.

Boy Scout Troop 220

Boy Scout Troop 220 meets every Tuesday night from 7 to 8:30 at 1082 Hawkinsville St. For more information, call James Tingerthal at 929-4871 or Dennis Collier at 953-8124.

Girl Scouts and leaders needed

Girl Scouts of Robins is looking for girls interested in scouts and is in need of leaders and co-leaders. The troops meet on base. If interested, contact Ginny Luther at (800) 868-4475 extension 133.

Museum volunteers

The Museum of Aviation is recruiting adult volunteers who enjoy meeting people. For more information, call Dan Hart at 926-6870.

Lost and found

One bowling bag with contents and one gym bag with

contents have been found. To identify lost property, call Investigator Genis Hall, found property custodian, 78th Security Forces Investigations, at 926-5271.

Red Cross needs volunteer coordinator

The Houston Middle Georgia Chapter of the American Red Cross is looking for a coordinator of Base volunteers. This volunteer position would be responsible for keeping time sheets for volunteers, planning yearly recognition services, getting new volunteers interested and placed, doing orientations for the American Red Cross and then scheduling new volunteers for any Base orientation classes, doing morale checks with volunteers, working closely with Family Support Center representative and American Red Cross representative to ensure volunteers’ needs are being met. If you are interested, send a resume and cover letter by mail to Mary Jennings, Base Liaison, American Red Cross, 346 Corder Rd., Warner Robins, GA 31088, by e-mail at mjennings@redcrosshmga.org or by fax at 922-8858.

Airman Leadership School flight chief explains importance of military salute

By Holly L. Birchfield
holly.birchfield@robins.af.mil

The salute, which dates back to the earliest years of military history, is a gesture expected of enlisted members when they are approached by an officer.

And Senior Master Sgt. Ray Bocook, flight chief of the Airman Leadership School here, said some have forgotten its significance in the military community.

“The officers and enlisted members we have serving in the United States Air Force are professionals, and we need to follow proper procedures and show respect for one another by rendering a salute,” he said.

The sergeant said proper form is important.

For a military member wearing a billed hat, the salute is taken to the right corner of the hat and held with the servicemember’s hand turned slightly toward his or her face, and the arm turned slightly forward and parallel to the ground.

If military members aren’t wearing a billed hat, they must take the salute to the corner of their eyebrow (with the middle finger touching the outside corner of the eyebrow). The salute is held until the senior ranking military member drops his or her salute.

Sergeant Bocook said when dropping a salute, military members should retrace the path of the hand for the salute,



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

Second Lt. Tiffany Changet receives a salute from Staff Sgt. Dorian Chapman outside of the Airman Leadership School Jan. 14.

“The officers and enlisted members ... are professionals, and we need to follow proper procedures and show respect for one another by rendering a salute.”

SENIOR MASTER SGT. RAY BOCOOK
flight chief of the Airman Leadership School

closing the saluting hand once the salute is dropped.

Specific rules apply for when to salute. Except for formal reporting, salutes aren’t rendered while indoors. Instead, a verbal greeting is an acceptable replacement.

Salutes are exchanged,

however, when military members are outdoors.

While civilians aren’t expected to render the salute when approaching a military officer, a verbal greeting, acknowledging his or her presence, is considered appropriate, Sergeant Bocook said.